

JGSG - GENEALOGY FAQS

Updated: August 7, 2014

Census Records

- US Federal Census - Begins 1790 & occurs every ten years.
- 1890 Census – Virtually all records destroyed in a fire.
- 1790 & 1810 US Census – Significant Data Missing.
- State Census Records – Census Years vary state to state.
 - NY State 1825-1875 every ten years; again in 1892; 1905, 1915, 1925
 - NYC Police Census 1890
- Public Census Records only available thru 1940 due to 72 Yr Privacy Restriction.
- 1950 US Census will be released April 1, 2022
- Birth Yr found in US Census - 1900
- Immigration Yr found in US Census – 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930
- Naturalization Status found in US Census – 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940
- Marriage Yr/Number of Yrs Married found in US Census – 1910 & 1930
- Number of Children Born & Still Living found in US Census - 1900 & 1910
- Military Service found in 1930 US Census
- Non-Population Census Records include: Agricultural Schedules, Manufacturing Schedules, Business Schedules, & Social Statistics Schedules.
- Microfilmed Records held at National Archives, Washington, DC

Passenger Lists

- 1820-1891 NY Entry at Castle Garden
- 1892-1957 NY Entry at Ellis Island
- Other Notable Ports of Arrival 1881-1924: Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Galveston, New Orleans, San Francisco, Seattle.
- Notable European Ports of Departure 1881-1924: Antwerp, Rotterdam, Hamburg, Bremen, Libau, Le Havre, Liverpool, Southampton, Glasgow, Piraeus.
- Microfilmed Records held at National Archives, Washington, DC.
- Morton-Allan Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals” - 1890-1930 Lists Ports of Departure & Arrival, Date & Name of Ship

Naturalization

- Prior to Sept 26, 1906, Naturalization could be filed in **ANY** court; federal, state, county or local. No uniform procedures or forms.
- Sept 26, 1906, INS takes over and centralizes process:
 - Declaration of Intention (First Papers) [PA on US Census]
 - Petition for Naturalization (Certificate of Arrival attached after 6/29/1906)
 - Oath of Allegiance
- Naturalization Status found in US Census – 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940;
AL (Alien), PA (First Papers), NA (Naturalized)
- 1925 NY State Census lists Yr of Naturalization
- Derivative Citizenship – 1790-1922 automatic citizenship granted to wives upon husband's naturalization or upon marrying a citizen & 1790-1940 children under age 21. In 1940 granted to minors under age 14.
- 1790-1922 an American marrying an alien actually lost her citizenship & would have to file for citizenship to regain it.
- Immigration Act of 1924 required entry documents.
- Any subsequent handwritten dates over names on Passenger Manifest refer to date of Naturalization Application.
- Index Cards – List Volume & Page for either Declaration of Intention or Petition for Naturalization.
- Post-1906 Microfilmed Records held at National Archives, Washington, DC.

Military Records

- WW I Draft Registration
 - June 5, 1917 – Ages 21-31
 - June 5, 1918 – Anyone turning 21 after June 5, 1917
 - Sept 12, 1918 – Ages 18-45 who hadn't previously registered.
- WW II Draft Registration – “Old Man's Draft” – 4th Registration
 - April 27, 1942 – Ages 45-64 (born April 27, 1877- Feb 16, 1897)
- 17 Million Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF) between 1912-1960 destroyed in a 1973 fire.

Jewish Surnames & Given Names

- Sephardic Jews in Spain, Portugal & Italy took surnames as early as 11th-12th centuries.
- 1787 – Austrian Emperor Joseph II decreed that Jews register a permanent family surname and that it be German.
- Early 1800's – A number of Germanic states soon followed. Many Jews living in Germanic cities had surnames or “double names”.
- 1808 - Napoleon compelled all Jews living in his Empire to take surnames.
- 1812 - Kingdom of Prussia required Jews to take surnames.
- 1821 - Jews living in Russian Poland were mandated to take surnames.
- 1844 - Jews living in Czarist Russia were required to register surnames.
- Ashkenazic Jews - custom to name children after recently departed relative as a way of honoring the deceased.
- Sephardic Jews – custom to name children after persons who may be living or dead.
Custom:
 - **Firstborn son** named after the **paternal grandfather**,
second male child after the **maternal grandfather**,
first daughter named after the **paternal grandmother**,
second female child after the **maternal grandmother**,
next child after the **paternal uncle or aunt**,
next after **maternal uncle/aunt**, etc.
 - (Source_JewishGen.org_ <http://www.jewishgen.org/sephardic/differ.htm>)
- Surnames ending in Germanic: “berg”=hill/mountain; “stein”=stone; “sohn”=son; “feld”=field
- Surnames ending in Slavic: “witz”, “vitz”, “vich”, “vitch”, “vic”=family of/son of; “ov”, “owski”, “ovsky”=son of/family of/from town of
- Surnames were **NOT** changed **AT** Ellis Island.

Terms & Definitions

- Vital Records – Death, Marriage & Birth Documents
- Collateral Research – Research extended family; ie. siblings, cousins, etc.
- SIG – Special Interest Group
- KehilaLinks – Commemorates Towns where Jewish Populations lived.
- Gazetteer – Geographical Dictionary or Directory
- FHL – Latter Day Saints/Mormon Family History Library
- AKTA – Russian for the word “Record” found on Czarist Russian Documents.
- Guberniya – Russian word for “Province” found on Czarist Russian Documents
- On Jewish Tombstone: Levite (Halevi) symbol is Water Pitcher
- On Jewish Tombstone: Kohayn symbol is Hands